

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08201 101730Z

70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01

NIC-01 AID-20 OPR-02 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

DRC-01 /211 W

----- 064781

R 101411Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1375

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.1162: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UN, 7NI, XF

SUBJK: GOWON ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: USUN 3732

1. ACCORDING NIGERIAN PRESS GOWON REPLIED TO PRESS QUESTIONS ON ME ON ARRIVAL FROM NEW YORK OCTOBER 9. HE DESCRIBED CURRENT CONFLICT AS "INTERNATIONAL TRAGEDY" AND SAID IT WAS CAPABLE OF CAUSING SEVERE SETBACK TO EFFORTS FOR LONGER TERM SETTLEMENT. HE DESCRIBED ARAB STATES AS "PUSHED TO WALL" IN EXPLAINING REASONS FOR THEIR ARMED ACTION. GOWON REFERRED AGAIN TO RESOLUTION 242 AS BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT, AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PRESENT CONFLICT COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED IF ALL PARTIES HAD RESPECTED ITS PROVISIONS.

2. PRESS HAS ALSO CARRIED TWO ACCOUNTS GOWON'S
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 08201 101730Z

REMARKS ON ME IN COURSE AFRICAN GROUP MEETING IN

NEW YORK REPORTED REFTEL. TIMES VERSION HAS GOWON CALLING ON AFS "TO GIVE FULL DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO EGYPT IN CURRENT ME CRISIS" AND EGYPTIAN FONMIN ZAYYAT EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR SUPPORT. NEW NIGERIAN STRESSES ALLEGED GOWON CALL ON AFS TO PRESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RES 242 CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, FAILURE OF WHICH HE REPORTEDLY CITED AS PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF CURRENT CONFLICT.

3. COMMENT: CLEAR IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MEA OFFICIALS THAT FMG FULLY ACCEPTS FACT THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA COME FIRST AND THAT ISSUES IN CURRENT ARMED CLASH DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO SIMPLE ANSWERS. GOWON'S REMARKS REFLECT CAUTION APPROPRIATE TO THIS VIEW OF SITUATION, AND WE WOULD NOT EXPECT HIM GO BEYOND HIS CURRENTLY MODERATE STANCE UNLESS SITUATION CHANGES DRASTICALLY IN ISRAELI FAVOR.
REINHARDT

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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